FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 FEBRUARY 1984

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces have begun the first phase of a new offensive, the Val-Fajr V operation, in the Changuleh sector between Mehran and Dehloran in Iran and between Al-Kut and Al-'Amarah in Iraq, Tehran radio reported. Iranian troops are currently advancing with "complete superiority" toward predetermined goals, killing a "large number" of Iraqi troops and successfully liberating one height in the process, IRNA and Tehran radio announced. A military spokesman, in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio, said the offensive has been contained by Iraqi border units which destroyed a "major part" of the attacking force.

In a related development, a military spokesman announced the destruction of seven Iranian "naval targets" in the Khowr-e Musa area of the Gulf by the Iraqi Navy and Air Force, Baghdad radio reported.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi military source, in a statement to INA, denied Iranian claims of a 16 February Iraqi air raid on the city of Mehran in violation of the 1-week moratorium declared against such attacks. A military source also denied Iranian reports that Abadan and Khorramshahr were shelled, INA reported. Iran's claims that its forces are now in control of the Darband-i Khan region were similarly denied by a military spokesman, INA said. Such "lies" are merely attempts to divert the Iranian people's attention from the deteriorating situation in their own country.

Iranian planes bombed military and civilian installations in Al-'Amarah and Al-Kut, the 15 February communique of the Joint Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces broadcast by Tehran radio announced. All aircraft returned safely to base after destroying all preselected targets, the communique added.

Lebanon

Military Situation — Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) forces captured Ad-Damur and Al-Mishrif, coastal towns south of Beirut, the PSP's clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio announced on 15 February. Voice of Lebanon radio admitted that both the Phalangist militia and the Lebanese Army have withdrawn to positions south of the Ad-Damur River. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon confirmed that the PSP and its allies have cut the coastal highway at Ad-Damur. Both the Phalangist radios cited Lebanese Government warnings that the United States will intervene to stop any offensive against government-controlled areas in Greater Beirut.

Earlier, officers and soldiers of the 43d Battalion of the Lebanese Army's 4th Brigade issued a statement, broadcast by Voice of the Mountain, declaring their solidarity with units which have refused to fight and pledging their loyalty to Army Chief of Staff Major General Nadim Hakim.

Political Developments — If President Amin al-Jumayyil abrogates the agreement with Israel, this will not absolve him of responsibility for the "massacres and crimes" committed against the Lebanese people, and therefore "we renew our demand for removing Amin al-Jumayyil and foiling his course," PSP leader Walid Junblatt declared in a statement broadcast by Voice of the Mountain. There will be "no solution, no dialogue, no accord" with the Phalange Party and Al-Jumayyil in power, Junblatt reaffirmed, and while the PSP will accept a Christian president, it does not want a Phalangist president. Junblatt also said that Maj Gen Hakim will shortly hold contacts with other "national" officers to form a national army command. Junblatt stressed his support for Palestinian rights, but added that he will not allow West Beirut to return to the state that preceded the Israeli invasion in 1982. The PSP and its allies will hold talks with Fatah dissident leaders to "specify the roles and to tell them that their best shield is the Lebanese national forces," Junblatt said.

Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri held talks with the U.S. ambassador which both men described as "useful," according to Beirut radio. Voice of Lebanon radio said President al-Jumayyil sent envoys to Arab and Western capitals for further consultations before taking "a political decision." Radio Free Lebanon, on the other hand, cited press reports that Al-Jumayyil expressed resentment over reports that he will soom make a "fateful decision," saying people should not be given an impression of decisions that "do not exist." Meanwhile, Phalangist leader Pierre al-Jumayyil emphasized that the Lebanese-Israeli agreement is "the only course" for Lebanon's salvation, the radio noted.

Israeli Position — If Lebanon abrogates its agreement with Israel, the latter will remain in control of a security zone in southern Lebanon "for some time to come" to protect against terrorist attacks, Defense Minister Moshe Arens told presidents of U.S. Jewish organizations in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio. Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman Eliyahu Ben-Elisar said in an interview with the radio's Arabic service that the "new situation" in Lebanon obliges Israel to retain its forces there, although he added that he does not consider the Al-Awwali River Israel's permanent border. The Israeli Government will decide the "ideal borders" for Israel, he said, and there are some areas to which the IDF may have to advance, and not withdraw.

Syria

Iranian Embassy Bomb — The "Arab Organization of 5 May" claimed responsibility for the parcel bomb which wounded the Iranian ambassador to Damascus, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

U.S. Visitor — Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam discussed the Middle East situation with visiting U.S. Congressman Wyche Fowler, Damascus radio noted

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, in a speech to the General People's Congress broadcast live by Tripoli radio, announced that the basic people's congresses have rejected a draft law calling for an "armed people," preferring instead the present system of conscription. Therefore, the program of military training in girls schools will be ended and women will be ineligible for military service, he said.

Pakistan

Pakistan has acquired a "very modest capability" to enrich uranium, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq disclosed at a news conference reported by Karachi radio.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 033 *16 February 1984*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INDIA

Prime Minister Congratuates Chernenko ..... E 1
Gandhi Urges Iran, Iraq To Contain Conflict ..... E 1
Gandhi Says Pakistani A-Bomb To Affect Security ..... E 1
Spokesman on Threats to Diplomats in Karachi ..... E 1
Tripartite Meeting Condemns Violence in Punjab ..... E 1
Further Report ..... E 1
Reportage on Punjab Situation, Curfews ..... E 2
Amritsar, Jullundur ..... E 2
16 February Ambush ..... E 2
AFP: Congress-I Accused of Instigating Violence ..... E 3
Strikes in Essential Services Banned in Assam ..... E 3

PAKISTAN

Zia Holds News Conference on Return From Moscow ..... F 1
Admits Uranium Enrichment Capability ..... F 1
Scientist Explains Nuclear Program, Research *[NAWA-E WAQT 10 Feb]* ..... F 1

IRAN

First Phase of Val-Fajr V Operation Launched ..... I 1
Communique No 1 ..... I 1
Geographical Location ..... I 1
Communique No 2 ..... I 1
47th Battalion Destroyed ..... I 1
Over 1,200 Killed, Wounded ..... I 2
Iraqi Plane Shot Down in Southern Region ..... I 2
Basra Hotel Hit by Long-range Artillery ..... I 2
Fighters Bomb Installations in Two Iraqi Towns ..... I 2
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,637 ..... I 2
Iraqi Attacks on Abadan, Khorramshahr Continue ..... I 3
15, 16 February Iraqi Airspace Violations Noted ..... I 3
Over Khorramabad ..... I 3
Over Mehran ..... I 3
Communique No 3 on Jerusalem Operations ..... I 3
Guards Minister Speaks at Armaments Factory Opening ..... I 4
'Huge Group' of Volunteers To Depart for Fronts ..... I 4
Azarbayjani Clergymen Sent to War Fronts ..... I 4
Defense Minister Briefs President 15 February ..... I 4
Musavi Chairs 15 February Cabinet Session ..... I 4
Memorandum on Cooperation With Syria Signed *[SANA]* ..... I 4
Delegation Departs for Syria 14 February ..... I 5
'Terrorist Attempt' on Ambassador's Life Condemned ..... I 5
UN Envoy Comments on Hormuz Closure, War ..... I 5

Prime Minister Congratuates Chernenko

BK151631 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Mrs Gandhi has conveyed her warm felicitations to Mr Chernenko on his election as the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party. In a message she wished him all success in his endeavor to achieve higher levels of welfare and prosperity for the Soviet people. She also wished him success in the common struggle for world peace in which, she said, both India and the Soviet Union are actively engaged.

Gandhi Urges Iran, Iraq To Contain Conflict

BK151425 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] India has urged Iran and Iraq to announce on a reciprocal basis that towns and civilians will not be made targets in the conflict between them. (?In) an identical message to President Saddam Husayn of Iraq and President Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i of Iran, the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, expressed alarm at recent reports that towns and civilians have become targets in the conflict. She said that a policy of deliberate destruction of civilian targets is a matter of great anguish to all friends and well wishers of both the countries. She appealed to them, both on behalf of the Government of India and as chairperson of the Nonaligned Movement, to take simultaneous measures to contain the conflict.

Gandhi Says Pakistani A-Bomb To Affect Security

BK160955 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] The prime minister has said that the greatest danger to India still lies in a conventional war. Mrs Gandhi was speaking to two Polish journalists. Asked what happens if Pakistan makes an atom bomb, Mrs Gandhi said this will affect our security and will have a bad effect on India. She said New Delhi had already spoken to those countries who are reportedly helping Pakistan in this matter.

The prime minister replied to a number of questions ranging from role of the Nonaligned Movement in lessening international tension to internal problems in the country. She said the government is making efforts to strengthen the national integrity and safeguard the country from possible challenges both from within and outside. She pointed out that India has been attacked five times since she became independent. There are also attempts to encourage agitational groups within the country.

Mrs Gandhi said India has been pressing for declaring the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, instead it is becoming more and more militarized. She said the basic responsibility for world peace rests on the strong nations, particularly those who have nuclear weapons. She said deployment of missiles by the United States in Western Europe has increased tension and made it difficult for leaders to meet and talk on limitation of nuclear arms. She observed that global peace demands a dialogue between the advanced and developing nations and the East and West.

On India-Polish ties, Mrs Gandhi said the two countries have cordial relations and their cooperation is steadily growing in different fields.

Spokesman on Threats to Diplomats in Karachi

BK151637 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] India has drawn Pakistan's attention to threatening calls received by Indian diplomats in Karachi after the execution of Maqbool Butt. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi that India has also sought adequate protection to its consulate and the Indian Airlines office in Karachi. These premises were subjected to mob attack recently.

Tripartite Meeting Condemns Violence in Punjab

BK151439 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] The tripartite meeting of the government, opposition, and Akali Dal leaders has unanimously condemned violence in Punjab and appealed to all the people of the state to stand for unity, solidarity, brotherhood, communal harmony, and peace in the state. The talks, which were resumed in New Delhi this afternoon, were adjourned after about 30 minutes. An official spokesman said new dates will be fixed for the next meeting after ascertaining the convenience of the leaders.

Further Report

BK151620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The New Delhi tripartite meeting to find a solution to the Punjab problem has unanimously condemned the violence in the state.

The home minister, Mr Sethi, referred to yesterday's incidents in the state and said even as the tripartite talks are being held certain elements tried to vitiate the atmosphere in the state. He said some organizations led by the Hindu Suraksha Samiti [protection committee] had given a call for a bundh [strike] in Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh.

In Punjab, the situation took a violent turn and there were clashes between groups of people and between some elements and the police. At some places, the police had to use force and even resort to firing. The affected places included Amritsar, Ludhiana, Jullundur, Ferozepur, Barnala, Kapurthala, Batala, and Sunam.

Mr Sethi said that according to the information received by the government, 10 persons, including 1 policeman, lost their lives in the disturbances.

The home minister said the situation in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh during the bundh remained by and large peaceful. However, some incidents were reported from Haryana today.

The CPI-M leader, Mr Harkrishan Singh Surjit, proposed the adjournment of the meeting to enable all concerned to work for the restoration of peace in Punjab.

Responding to the suggestion, the Akali Dal leader, Mr Prakash Singh Badal, expressed shock at the incidents and said all leaders should join in restoring communal harmony in the state.

Mr L.K. Advani of the Bharatiya Janata Party agreed with the sentiments expressed by the Akali leader and said communal peace must be maintained at all cost so as to prevent antisocial elements from taking advantage of the situation.

The Janata leader, Mr Madhu Dandavate, said the talks should be resumed after sometime.

Mr Jagjivan Ram regretted the incidents. He suggested that informal talks can be continued during the period of adjournment to make an attempt to resolving the territorial disputes.

Dr Sarat Singh of Lok Dal appealed for moderation while making statements.

Mr S.S. Barnala of Akali Dal also shared the views expressed by the opposition leaders.

The union ministers of finance, energy, external affairs, defense, and parliamentary affairs also attended the meeting.

Reportage on Punjab Situation, Curfews

BK151645 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] The situation in Punjab is fully under control. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere in the state except in Jandialaguru in Amritsar District where a police constable was shot dead by some unidentified persons this morning.

The state home secretary told the All-India Radio correspondent in Chandigarh today that curfew has been extended in Khanna, Ludhiana, and Ferozepur till 0800 tomorrow morning, and in Amritsar and Jullundur till 0800 on Friday. In Patiala, night curfew has been reimposed as a precautionary measure. In Jullundur, the curfew was relaxed for 90 minutes today so that the people could buy essential commodities. It will again be relaxed from 0800 to 1800 tomorrow.

District peace committees held meetings at several places, including Sangrur, Amritsar, Jullundur, Patiala, Kapurthala, and Rohtak today. The committees, which comprised leaders of different political parties, social and cultural organizations, and eminent citizens, appealed to the people to help maintain peace and communal harmony in the state. Peace marches were also organized at many places.

The prime minister has been keeping herself fully informed about the situation. She got a report about the incidents soon after her return from Moscow this morning.

The Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, has condemned the violent incidents, including burning of some shops at Karnal in Haryana. He appealed to the people of both the states to maintain peace and amity.

The president of the Punjab state unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Mr Baldev Prakash, and the Suraksha Samiti have demanded a judicial inquiry by a court judge into the alleged firing from the roof of the Golden Temple complex, the bomb blast in Jullundur, and police firing at some places.

In a statement in New Delhi, the president of the Akali Dal-Master Tara Singh Group, Jathedar Rachpal Singh, condemned the incidents and urged the people to be vigilant against antisocial and antinational elements.

Amritsar, Jullundur

BK160855 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] The situation in Amritsar and Jullundur continues to be under control, and no untoward incident has been reported so far. The curfew in Amritsar has been extended up to 0600 tomorrow morning. However, some areas, including roads leading to the Golden Temple and (Burgiana) Temple from the bus stand, have been exempted from the curfew. The Amritsar Peace Committee is meeting at 1500 this afternoon.

In Jullundur, a meeting convened by the deputy commissioner has agreed to cancel the processions which were to be taken out today in connection with Guru Ravidas birthday celebrations.

The Akali leaders have appealed to the people to maintain peace and communal harmony in the state. The Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee [Sikh Temple management committee] president, Mr G.S. Tohra, and former union minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, have expressed concern over the violence in Karnal and Panipath towns of Haryana.

The Haryana chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, has deplored the violent incidents in the state. In a statement in New Delhi he appealed to the people to live in peace and amity.

16 February Ambush

BK161245 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] In Punjab, one police personnel was killed and another injured when a group of terrorists ambushed a patrol party in Gurdaspur District early this morning.

An official spokesman said in Chandigarh today that no untoward incident except this has been reported from anywhere in the state.

AFP: Congress-I Accused of Instigating Violence

BK160814 Hong Kong AFP in English 0807 GMT 16 Feb 84

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 16 (AFP) — The leader of the Sikh political party has accused Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress-I Party of instigating this week's violence in Punjab State which left 16 people dead and some 200 injured. The accusations by Harchand Singh Longowal came amid reports from Hindu-dominated Haryana, which borders Punjab, that Hindus there might be planning retaliatory attacks on Sikhs in the state.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) today quoted Mr. Longowal as saying in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar that the Congress-I had provoked the Punjab violence as part of "a deep rooted conspiracy against the collective interest" of the state.

Widespread violence broke out in the northern state on Tuesday and Wednesday after two militant Hindu organizations called for a general strike to protest against the detention of Hindu leader Pawan Kumar Sharma.

Mr. Longowal, whose hold on the Sikh Party, the Akali Dal, has been loosened recently with a militant faction pledging loyalty to Jarnai Singh Bhindranwale, appealed for communal harmony. "Where the violence and rowdyism is [as received] leading the people to?" he asked. "What Punjab is going to gain out of it?" [as received]

Hindus are in the overall majority in India but the Sikhs are the largest group in the Punjab, where the militants among them have waged an often-bloody campaign for greater autonomy and other political and religious concessions.

The strike coincided with talks in the Indian capital among Sikh leaders, the heads of opposition political parties and representatives of the federal government. The discussions here were adjourned yesterday after the violence without a date set for their resumption.

Meanwhile, reports reaching here from Haryana said that several areas of the state were tense as the administration feared possible Hindu retaliation against the Sikhs. Mobs reportedly went on a rampage yesterday in the major town of Karnal, attacking property owned by Sikhs. At least six people were hurt and four shops burnt, said the *TRIBUNE* newspaper, published from Chandigarh, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana States. At least four towns in the state observed a strike yesterday to protest against the killings in Punjab the day before, the *TRIBUNE* said today. It said that the local administrations had ordered all schools closed. Bus service between Chandigarh and the Indian capital was suspended today following the violence in Karnal, which is along the route, PTI said. Buses belonging to Punjab State reportedly were stoned yesterday and employees beaten up.

Strikes in Essential Services Banned in Assam

BK160721 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] In Assam, strikes in essential services have been banned under the essential services maintenance act. An official notification issued in Gauhati said the order has already come into force.

Zia Holds News Conference on Return From Moscow

BK151744 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has hoped that Pakistan-Soviet relations will continue to develop under Mr Konstantin Chernenko, the new Soviet leader, and there will be further progress toward a political solution of the Afghanistan problem through indirect negotiations under the UN auspices. The president was addressing a news conference on his return to Islamabad tonight from Moscow after attending the funeral of Mr Andropov.

The president said during the short tenure of the late Soviet leader, Mr Andropov, bilateral relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union progressed in various spheres, particularly in the economic fields. We expect that not only will these relations find greater dimensions, but there would be progress on the solution of the Afghanistan problem, and Mr Chernenko would take up the thread from where it was left by his predecessor, Mr Yuriy Andropov.

The president said because of Mr Chernenko's preoccupations and his brief stay in the Soviet capital, he could not have the opportunity to meet with the new Soviet leader separately. However, during the brief meeting with Mr Chernenko, along with the other world leaders attending the funeral, he conveyed to him our sentiments and good wishes.

Paying rich tributes to the late Soviet president, Mr Yuriy Andropov, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said he was a great leader with remarkable farsightedness. It was unfortunate that he could not live longer to serve his country. He said it is our hope that the new Soviet leadership will fulfill the expectations of the Soviet people and work for the progress of the country.

Replying to a question, the president said Pakistan has approached the question of Afghanistan not as an individual, but as a member of the Organization of Islamic Conference which jointly decided to settle this problem, and we are bound by the decisions of the ICO. He said there is no question of having direct talks with the Kabul regime, although there have been some suggestions in the past that Pakistan should negotiate directly with the Kabul regime. Details of the news conference are still coming in.

Admits Uranium Enrichment Capability

BK160640 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Excerpts] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has expressed the hope that Pakistani-Soviet relations will continue to develop under the new Soviet leader, Mr Konstantin Chernenko, and there will be further progress toward a political solution of the Afghan issue through indirect negotiations under UN auspices. The president was addressing a news conference on his return to Islamabad from Moscow last night after attending the funeral of Mr Andropov.

Asked whether in his meeting with Cuban leader Fidel Castro he had discussed the Afghanistan issue and the use of Mr Castro's good offices to resolve this issue, the president said: We can expect that Castro may use his good offices, but we have been trying to resolve this issue politically and we have every hope that we will succeed. We also hope that we will have the support of the Soviet Union in this connection.

The president commended the role of Soviet Ambassador Smirnov, who was present at the news conference, in the promotion of Pakistani-Soviet relations. He said the Pakistani Embassy's role in this connection is equally commendable.

The president said that during his stay in Moscow, he exchanged views with U.S. Vice President George Bush, British Prime Minister Thatcher, PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, and Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau on bilateral matters. He said these discussions will have a good impact on relations with these countries. In answer to a question, the president said Pakistan enjoys good relations with Canada and Canada has given valuable assistance to us.

Replying to another question, the president said that Pakistan has acquired a very modest capability to enrich uranium, but he reiterated that Pakistan has no purpose other than peaceful in acquiring nuclear technology.

The president told a questioner that the government has always kept the doors of political negotiations open. We have had talks and are always read to talk with those whe believe in the country's stability and uphold its ideology. He said that he and his colleagues were keen to ensure political stability and hold elections in the country to bring about a political leadership. He said he had already presented a political program and would abide by it.

Scientist Explains Nuclear Program, Research

GF131730 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 10 Feb 84 magazine supplement

["Exclusive" interview with Dr Abdul Qadir Khan by NAWA-E WAQT correspondent in Lahore on 9 February]

[Text] Question: You are the first Pakistani scientist to challenge the Western experts' monopoly on the enrichment of uranium. Is it because of this challenge that the people concerned in the West and their media have begun to slander you? Can you specify what country was working behind the scenes in this regard and still is despite the fact that the Netherlands Government granted you permission to work at the (Almelo) center after complete checks and appointed you a special adviser?

Abdul Qadir Khan: In fact, it was not only a challenge but it has destroyed the monopoly forever. By the grace of God, Pakistan is now among the few countries in the world that can efficiently enrich uranium. Whenever the Western countries think about us, they just imagine a few horse- and donkey-drawn carts. They could never envisage that a developing country like Pakistan would ever actually break the monopoly forever within a few years. The examples of India and Switzerland are before us. They were blackmailed by the imposition of restrictions on

the enrichment of uranium and political advantages were reaped. As you know, this work is extemely difficult and its importance is paramount in the nuclear field. Progressive and affluent countries such as the Netherlands, Great Britain, and West Germany have spent the astronomical sum of $2 billion and have worked 20 years to set up a pilot plant through their joint efforts at (Almelo) in the Netherlands.

Similarly, a progressive country like Japan spent $650 million and managed to set up a small plant in 10 years. The United States is now setting up a centrifuge plant at Portsmouth, Ohio at a cost of $10 billion which will go into partial operation by 1988.

In light of the above facts, the Western countries could not even imagine that a poor and backward country like Paksitan could end this monopoly in so short a time. As soon as they realized that Pakistan had shattered their dreams, they fell on Pakistan and on me like hungry wolves and showered us with all the pejorative and derogatory terms in the world. Just consider for a moment the fact that they could not tolerate a Muslim country becoming their equal in such an important field. Despite the president's repeated assurances that our nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only and for the production of electricity, these countries incited their media against Pakistan and myself.

Question: France has not honored its agreement to provide a reprocessing plant to Pakistan. Will Pakistan be able to successfully continue in the field of nuclear technology? When will Paksitan be able to utilize the nuclear power from the (Kahorh) plant at which work is being conducted for peaceful purposes? Pakistan now enjoys an outstanding position in the nuclear field and the Pakistani Government as well as the Pakistani people think Pakistan should be equal to other advanced countries in the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes. Can you specify how long it will before the wish of the Pakistani people materializes?
Abdul Qadir Khan: As to the implementation of the agreement to provide a reprocessing plant, the attitude of the anti-Islamic Western countries, which they have against all developing countries in general, and the Muslim countries in particular is responsible, that is, no advanced technology should fall into our hands so that we will always remain at their mercy. They are all the same about this policy. We have no direct concern about the reprocessing plant and work is continuing under the supervision of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission [PAEC]. We are certain that if they work wholeheartedly and if the government provides the desired facilities, they will be able to do this work easily. You are deluding yourself if you think that the (Kahorh) plant is operating to enrich uranium. This uranium is being used to manufacture fuel for light water reactors. The Pakistani Government is trying to purchase a 900-megawatt reactor and negotiations are continuing with many countries for this purpose. It requires at least 10 years to obtain, install, and operate such a reactor. Because of this, we have at least 10 years to provide the requirements of our nuclear reactor. We are positive that when it begins operation, we will be able to provide it with fuel from our (Kahorh) plant. In this way, we will save ourselves the problems and helplessness that India is facing at present and we will also save on foreign exchange. The advantages of the work we are doing at the moment will become evident in a few years.

Question: As you well know, the Western press, led by U.S. newspapers, continue to drop hints about "an Islamic bomb." It is also a fact that Israeli capitalists are working behind the scenes. The government has said this is baseless. But despite these reassurances, sporadic propaganda continues. Would you like to comment on the reasons for this?

Abdul Qadir Khan: The "Islamic bomb" is a figment of the Zionist mind and this has been used with full force by the anti-Islamic Western countries. You must know that films have been made on the topic and books have been published, which are brimming with lies. All the Western countries are involved in this. Some to a greater and some to a lesser extent, but they all join the martyrs' camp by putting a little blood on their fingers. [Urdu proverb] I think that there is no other subject in the world about which so many lies have been told as have the falsehoods which have been piled on us in this respect. The fact is, when we return from Western countries after completing studies there, we are amazed at the fact that such educated and cultured persons can stoop to such low acts. This persistent propaganda is aimed at creating fear in people and commercial organizations in Western countries so that if they sell anything to Pakistan it will appear again in the form of an Islamic bomb; therefore, they must not sell anything to Pakistan. They have been successful in this mischief-mongering to some extent and have imposed restrictions on the export of the most minor products.

By the grace of God, we are not dependent on them and we can manufacture such things in Pakistan ourselves according to our needs. In this regard, we must congratulate the scientists of the (Kahorh) plant and its engineers who have made Pakistan self-sufficient in this important job.

Question: Many countries, especially Canada and other European countries, are not nuclear powers. They have not manufactured bombs but they are far advanced in nuclear energy. How long will it take Pakistan to achieve this position? The above-mentioned countries provide nuclear technology to other countries and cooperate in supplying facilities to others, among which India heads the list. India conducted its first nuclear test in 1974 and, reportedly,it can do it again anytime. It has also acquired the ability to manufacture many atom bombs every year. But when Pakistan talks of peaceful uses of nuclear energy the same countries quickly begin propaganda against Pakistan. What is the reason for this contradictory behavior?

Abdul Qadir Khan: As I said before, all the Western countries including Israel are not only Pakistan's enemies but also enemies of Islam. If some other Muslim country had accomplished the same thing, the same venomous and false propaganda would have been conducted against it as well. The examples of Iraq and Libya are before you. Even though these countries are not capable of manufacturing an atom bomb for a long time yet Western media sources are conducting a violent propaganda campaign against them. In fact ,the Iraqi officer in charge of Iraq's nuclear program, Dr Yahya (al-Mashhad), was killed ruthlessly in broad daylight in the famous Hotel Meridien in Paris while Iraq's nuclear reactor, which was being completed under supervision by an international body, was also destroyed.

All this is part of the crusades which the Christians and Jews had initiated against the Muslims 1000 years ago. Islam was the only religion which uprooted their culture and civilization and they have not forgotten it even today. The second reason is that all countries are aware that Muslims believe in monotheism and despite political disunity, they share each other's hardships. They are afraid that if Pakistan makes obvious progress in this field, then the whole Islamic world will stand to benefit. There is no such danger from India. You know that Iraq, Libya, and Iran had increased ties with India in the hope that India would assist them in nuclear technology but this was not the case and they were sorely disappointed. This is the reason why Western countries ignore India's nuclear program and its results and are after us.

Question: How can you compare Pakistan and India in the field of nuclear energy? India is far ahead of us. Can we catch up with India? How far ahead is India?

Abdul Qadir Khan: India was far ahead of us in the nuclear field. In fact, its nuclear program was based from the very beginning on sound foundations. The late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was at the head of this program and he used to take a lot of personal interest in it. Unfortunately, this did not happen in our country. When Dr Usmani, a very competent nuclear scientist with a PhD in nuclear science, came, he set the nuclear program on a correct course.The nuclear powerplant at Nilor, "Pintech," and the Karachi powerplant "Kanupp," are the results of his efforts. He also got our scientists and engineers trained in the Western countries on very high and proper bases, and thus the base of our nuclear program was laid at a much later date than that of India. Now the Atomic Energy Commission staff is doing its best to fill the vacuum. As far as we are concerned, by the grace of God, we have left India far behind in enriching uranium and we are confident that India has so far made no headway in this respect. Such a big success in such a short time is the result of the personal interest and efforts of President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq. He not only encouraged our engineers and scientists, he also provided them with all the facilities which became the basis for this difficult task. I and my colleague are proud that we have placed Pakistan in a very enviable position in this field in the international level. If similar hard work is done in other fields with the same interest, then, God willing, we will reach the level of India in a very short time.

Question: Huge expenditure is needed in carrying out nuclear programs. Does Pakistan have enough financial resources to make satisfactory progress in this field and then use it in making up the shortfall in electric power, which we are facing now?

Abdul Qadir Khan: You are absolutely right that this job needs a huge amount of money. Unfortunately, our country has limited resources and it is on this account that we are dealing with our program in a gradual way. If we did not have this handicap we could have done this a long time ago and would have caught up with India. In any case, whatever has been done is praiseworthy, and the laurels of these achievements go to the present regime. I must make one thing absolutely clear: contrary to the mischevious foreign propaganda, no foreign country has given financial or technical aid to us in this field. Whatever achievement we have secured has been done by tightening our own belts. This achievement is the result of the untiring and selfless efforts of our scientists and engineers. Our technicians are not far behind foreign experts in any field. I am sure that, God willing, we will be able to make use of the atomic power within a few years. The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission is doing all it can in this field and is busy in this regard. Most certainly, it will get satisfactory results in this field and will meet the electricity needs of the general public. As far as the supply of enriched uranium is concerned, we will supply the Atomic Energy Commission, God willing, with as much as it needs.

Question: We hear that the heavy water supply is very important in obtaining nuclear power, but nobody has mentioned anything about heavy water in Pakistan. Will this be imported or will some other process be used, which will not require heavy water? Has India set up four new heavy water factories?

Abdul Qadir Khan: Only the Karachi electric powerplant (Kanupp) needs heavy water and the Atomic Energy Commission keeps making necessary arrangements for this. As far as installation of a new reactor is concerned, the government has decided to use a light water reactor. No heavy water will be required by this reactor. As far as I think, as soon as the Kanupp runs its full life, we won't need heavy water at all. Even if we do need heavy water in the future, the scientists and other engineers will arrange for its supply.

Question: We have raw uranium in Pakistan. Is it processed in Pakistan or will we have to import processed uranium from abroad?

Abdul Qadir Khan: We have ample reserves of raw uranium in Pakistan and these are processed under the supervision of Atomic Energy Commission. The requirements of the Kahuta plant are met from the local supply.

Question: Pakistan is not much advanced in other sectors of science, particularly metallurgy and electronics. Are the computers required for the nuclear energy imported from abroad and are these things readily available in the world?

Abdul Qadir Khan: It is true that Pakistan is far behind in the field of electronics and metallurgy compared to the developed countries, but the conditions are not so hopeless that we could not make do with what we have. Although you do not see progress in offices and in the streets on the scale you see in the foreign developed countries, we are sufficiently expert in the items which we need for our jobs and, with the grace of God, our work is going ahead in a completely satisfactory manner and we are self-sufficient in several related branches. Since our needs are not limited, therefore, we have often to import items from abroad. Although Western countries do all they can to put obstacles in our way, somehow or other we do succeed in getting the required items. In the field of metallurgy, I have made enough progress on the international field and, in other sectors, our scientists and engineers have made considerable progress.

Question: In what sectors can nuclear energy be used, keeping in mind the circumstances which prevail in Pakistan?

Abdul Qadir Khan: As you know, the Atomic Energy Commission is using nuclear power in many sectors, for example, in electric power production, agriculture, medicine, medical treatment, and several other things. This circle may grow as the time passes.

Question: Will Pakistan be able to build a fast-breed reactor so that it can install its own electric power stations and, if so, how long will this take?

Abdul Qadir Khan: It is a very complicated technology; it needs much time, capital, and investment. Surely, the fast-breed reactor is considered to be the reactor of the future. If the Government of Pakistan makes a decision in this respect in time, then it would be a big challenge for Pakistani scientists and engineers and it is hoped that Pakistani scientists and engineers will accept this challenge. You must know that after 20 years of joint efforts, France and India have now been able to install an experimental reactor in India. Western countries also have achieved only a limited success in this field.

Question: American press, like *NEWSWEEK*, *TIME*, *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, *THE WASHINGTON POST*, and the Indian paper *PATRIOT* have reported that Pakistan has tested a nuclear device. Although this report has been contradicted, would you like to say why these reports were published?

Abdul Qadir Khan: This is a press war and they have better resources in this respect than we have. But, in fact, behind these reports lie the usual hostility toward Islam. By publishing such false and mischievious reports, these people want to frighten the general public and the commercial interests. This is done so that by putting them under pressure, they will not sell any important instruments or technical equipment to Pakistan. You should give a crushing reply to such baseless propaganda.

Question: Several countries, including the United States, are against Pakistan's atomic program. The Soviet ambassador recently said in an interview that Pakistan need not follow its atomic program and that the Soviet Union is ready to supply aid to Pakistan in connection with the solar energy, which will meet Pakistan's energy shortfall. What is the motive behind persuading Pakistan not to follow its atomic program?

Abdul Qadir Khan: As a matter of their basic principle, all the developed countries are against the developing countries making any headway toward higher technology. The reason is obvious. They want to keep their markets in shape and they want to keep others in need of them. In this respect, the reasoning of both the Soviet Union and the United States is the same. As far as atomic energy is concerned, much progress has been made in this field in the last few years and it is for this reason that developing countries are keen on having this source of energy. On the other hand, solar energy is also getting through its preliminary stages. Much time and capital are required to make it meet public energy needs. As far as the question of giving up our atomic energy program and obtaining solar energy without any cost is concerned, it reminds me of the spontaneous answer which Dr Usmani gave to an American representative. The question was: Why does Pakistan exert so much effort and spend so much money on wheat crops? We are ready to meet all your wheat needs under the PL-48 program. Dr Usmani's answer was: "If burials were free, would all Americans be prepared to commit suicide?" Thus, it is obvious that we cannot give up our atomic research program.

Question: Surely, while working in foreign countries, you must have felt the need to serve your own country. Would you like to state whether you ever decided to act on this feeling?

Abdul Qadir Khan: You should know that every Pakistani who is in a foreign country for higher studies always thinks of returning to Pakistan to serve his own country and to make Pakistan benefit from his attainments and experiences.

When I left for Europe, I made up my mind that after studies I would return to Pakistan and would work for Pakistan's prosperity and welfare to the best of my abilities. After completing my higher studies, I remained in wait for a suitable opportunity to return to Pakistan. When I returned to Pakistan toward the end of 1975, I found that the ground was fertile for my services. I then gave up my idea to return to Europe. What happened after that is no secret to you.

Question: In your absence you were accused in The Netherlands of stealing some atomic secrets. An investigating committee was set up in this connect on pressure from Israel and the judgment delivered against you was 4 years imprisonment. Would you like to say something about this?

Abdul Qadir Khan: Mr Warsi, *NAWA-E WAQT*, and other newspapers and magazines of Pakistan have thrown sufficient light on the various aspects of my case. To begin with, I must thank *NAWA-E WAQT*, other newspapers and magazines, and the correspondents, who all strongly protested against this judgment. These protests brought positive results and gave moral strength to my colleagues and to my family members that the Netherlands Government had done much injustice to me by resorting to courts of law. I might add here that the Government of Pakistan filed an appeal against this unjust judgment on instructions from the respected president of Pakistan. Our ambassador in The Netherlands, Dr Khurshid Haider, who is a very competent diplomat, is personally looking after this case. In addition, the Pakistan Ministry of Law is going through this case from every point of view to be able to advise our lawyer in The Netherlands.

All these charges and court cases were imposed at the insistence of Zionists and Western anti-Islam elements. Under pressure from Israel, the Government of The Netherlands had set up a parliamentary committee in 1980 to go into this case. Its decision was that neither I nor anybody else in company with me had done any spying or had stolen any secrets and that nothing was handed over by me or by my colleague to any person or any government. However, this committee said that Pakistan had gained much capability in enriching uranium through my experience and abilities and that the Government of Pakistan has made a considerable saving of expenditure in this respect. It is quite contrary to all the canons of law to file a case against me after 4 years and also without giving me any facility to defend myself. Surely, the anti-Pakistan and anti-Islam elements had a hand in it. Moreover, all this was done when there was a great hue and cry in

Western Europe about the deployment of American nuclear warhead missiles and the Government of The Netherlands itself was engaged in efforts to have these missiles deployed in The Netherlands. To file a case against me, the Government of The Netherlands wanted to give an impression to its own people that it was totally against the spread of nuclear arms and that anybody who writes even a harmless letter to it — which may not even have been answered — can be sentenced to 4 years imprisonment by the government. In fact, this drama was staged in a futile effort to mislead the public. I am sure that the Supreme Court of The Netherlands, where the appeal has been filed, will invalidate the judgment of the lower court against me. Thus, it will compensate me for the injustice done to me.

The fact is that when this case was brought to the notice of lawyers of other European countries, they expressed surprise and said that no such injustice had ever been done in their own countries. They said that no case had ever been filed in their country in which a trial was held and a judgment of imprisonment delivered without giving the defendant an opportunity to defend himself. You know that I had sent three cables to the judge trying the case when I heard on 11 November 1983 through the press about this case. These cables, according to the prosecution, had reached there on 11 and 12 November respectively. Even then they hurried up the case and announced a judgment on 14 November. All these things are totally against the demands of justice.

Question: Doctor, the details published in Pakistani papers and periodicals about the filing of the case in the courts of The Netherlands and the reaction thereon clearly prove that the Kahuta project had no connection with the Atomic Energy Commission. What was the object of the Atomic Energy Commission in setting up a new scheme under the supervision of the government in connection with this project?

Abdul Qadir Khan: You know that if more air is pumped into a tube than it can absorb, it will burst and its usefulness will be turned into its uselessness.

Any scheme which is enlarged more than necessary loses its usefulness and all efforts made toward this end are wasted in resolving administrative difficulties. Problems of the people grow. There are so many huge departments which are not working according to their strength. If these are divided into several smaller departments then most certainly their output will grow. The Atomic Energy Commission is a very big organization. I am not sure, but I think 6,000 scientists and engineers are working in this organization. Its activities extend from atomic electrical power to medical and agricultural fields. A news report says that even a cure for infertility in women is being dealt with in this commission.

Enrichment of uranium is a highly complicated and difficult job. This needs revolutionary steps. We needed independence in our tasks. The government took an entirely wise step and allowed this scheme to work independently. The president and the minister of finance were very farsighted and kind and they allowed us to work independently. I am proud to say that I and my colleagues came up to their expectations. There was no other reason to let this scheme work independently except to guarantee its success. The president and the government have repeatedly assured us that this program was meant for peaceful purposes only. We have worked round the clock to give Pakistan an enviable position in this field. In addition to our own scientists and the engineers, the Army engineers have also done a wonderful job in this respect. Shoulder to shoulder with their civilian colleagues, the Army engineers have done an admirable job in the electrical, electronic, and mechanical engineering aspects and they have earned praise from everybody. The Air Force engineers have also set an example in this field. Lastly, I would say that without the encouragement and guidance of President Gen Muhammad Ziaul Haq and Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan, this work would not have been finished. They encouraged us at every step and provided us with every facility.

Question: A number of projects have been taken up with great enthusiasm, but as time passes their completion seems to be coming to a sad end. The Kahuta project is the only project which has been praised even by our enemies. This project has placed Pakistan on a very admirable stage in the international atomic field. Could you give us an idea about the reasons for its praiseworthy success?

Abdul Qadir Khan: As regards other projects, only the officials responsible for those projects can throw light on them. As far as we are concerned, I and my collegues decided that we would complete this project even at the cost of our lives. We have never cared for the restrictions placed on us by anti-Pakistan foreign countries. We have never complained to the government or to anybody else that such and such a country has stopped our equipment or has delayed its delivery. By working round the clock, and with the grace of God Almighty, we have achieved so much progress that we now can manufacture everything we need. We can now manufacture the most difficult pieces of equipment which we need.

Laurels for all this go to my colleagues. By working 12 to 13 hours a day and even working on holidays, they have made Pakistan self-sufficient in this most important field. If you knew my daily commitments, then you must have known that I am never able to leave for home before 1930 or 2000. The same is the case with my colleagues. They feel proud of their work. Our engineers and scientists are no less competent than the scientists and the engineers of other countries. They only need to be told their priorities. My colleagues have never doubted my good intentions nor have I had any doubts on their intentions.

Secondly, I have full confidence in them. I am working on ademocratic basis and have given them full authority to select their colleagues and methods of work. I am very fortunate that I have had an opportunity to work with such patriotic Pakistanis. Mr Winston Churchill visited Egypt during World War II. He addressed the 8th Army Division and said: If anybody asks you what role you played during World War II, all you need to say is that you fought with the 8th Army. For me also, it is matter of great pride that I had an opportunity to work on the Kahuta project along with the most able and patriotic Pakistanis. It is essential for the success of any project that we should know the goal of our job. If you work on a PhD thesis and you say at the start that you have to perform this task and solve this difficulty, then you have already accomplished 50 percent of the task. The

remaining 50 percent then would not be difficult. A famous British author, G.K. Chesterton, has said in most clear words: "It is not that they cannot see the solution, it is that they cannot see the problem." The same weakness is common in Pakistan. There are a number of organizations and schemes, but their directors have failed to point out their goal and to accomplish their assigned task.

Question: You have spent more than 7 years working here but I have never seen you in any conference or meeting. Is there any specific reason for this?

Abdul Qadir Khan: Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan once said that there should be a conference on conferences because it was essential to find out the feasibility of holding conferences. If you are engaged in your work faithfully and sincerely for about 7 to 8 hours a day, then how can you find time to participate in conferences with a plate-size label on your chest? I consider conferences a means of propaganda for those who use them to advertise themselves after they have failed in the tasks alloted to them. In our project, meetings and conferences have disappeared. I daily tour my department and all talk concerns the work itself. We all, the directors, take our lunch together at one place. If there is any important point, we discuss it there and then and find a way to solve it. This method of work has proven very satisfactory and we have not wasted our time in any way. At the national level also, this method of work would prove most effective and there would be no need to hold conferences. The science and technical departments can thus save their time and money. If you arrange for a very small conference, you will learn how much time and money is spent on it and the result is nil.

Question: Our standard of education has fallen miserably. Western standards aside, our standard of education is lower than even that of India. Can you advise us on its improvement?

Abdul Qadir Khan: When I was minister of education in Karachi, the dates of examinations were never changed. Classes were held regularly and exams were held on time. Respect for teachers was equal to the respect the students held for their parents. Unfortunately, the era of the late President Ayub Khan ruined the system of education in Pakistan. Since then, we have continuously been on a downward trend. Politics are more in vogue than education in the educational institutes. Nobody has any respect for the teachers. Eduation takes from 6 to 7 years to complete instead of 4 years.

Fortunately, the president of Pakistan understands this difficulty. By appointing Dr Muhammad Afzal as minister of education, he has taken the first step toward education reforms. Dr Afzal is a very learned, competent, and experienced education specialist. He has sufficient experience in the technical field also. He has made statements on education without mincing words during the last few months. He is doing his best now to put the education system on the right path. You probably know that Hippocrates once said: "Extreme remedies are most appropriate for extreme diseases." It is most essential to ban all political and other activities which distract students from their education in the educational institutions. Our country is a developing country and we cannot afford such luxuries as studies which could be completed in 4 years taking 7 to 8 years to complete. It is essential to hold examinations on time. Those male and female students who cannot complete their courses in time should be expelled and more hardworking students should be enrolled. If you do not treat this disease with a firm hand, it will continue in our country in addition to wasting time.

Question: Not only have the Pakistani mass media but the foreign media and technical experts have identified you as the founder of the Pakistani atomic program. Some patriotic elements have said that the Qu'ade A'zam laid the foundation of Pakistan and you with your work have guaranteed the security of Pakistan for all time. A foreign paper said that after the Qu'ade A'zam and Iqbal your name will remain alive in the history of Pakistan. The fact is that prior to the Kahuta project, our position in the atomic field was nil. Now we hold an honorable position, by the grace of God, in the Western world and in the world of Islam. All this is due to your sacrifices and research. Would you like to say anything in this respect?

Abdul Qadir Khan: Please understand that all the successes achieved by us in this important field have been aided by the president and the finance minister. It would have been almost impossible to complete this difficult and important task without their guidance and encouragement. As far we are concerned, I and my colleagues, we have only done our duty. Sacrifices were made by Pakistanis when Pakistan was created. Then later, the patriots sacrificed their lives in 1965 and 1971 without any grudge. My sacrifices and those of my colleagues are nothing compared with those referred to above. This is our country and it is our duty to serve and safeguard it.

When the time comes, God willing, you will not find us lacking in our duty as compared to others. We are grateful for those praises lavished on us by our brothers and sisters and we ask that when they pray, they should include us in their prayers and sacrifice everything for the progress and development of our country and the nation. We are very fortunate that God has given us this land. Look at the sacrifices and the hardships of the Palestinians. When you have no country of your own, then everybody treats you shabbily; they only praise you outwardly. Nobody helps you in any practical way. We should safeguard our country more than our own lives. This can only be done through education and honesty.

Question: Tell us something about your childhood?

Abdul Qadir Khan: You may have become aware through the papers and magazines that I was born in Bhopal. Bhopal was a well-known Muslim state in undivided India. Its people were simple and religious. There, I had never heard of factions or knew any existed before I came to Pakistan. Our city was full of mosques. The number of people who had memorized the Koran was greater in Bhopal than any other state or city. The late Nawab [Nobob] Hamidullah Khan was a very able person. His services to Pakistan are known to all.

People from Bhopal have been quite prominent among Pakistani officials. People like Ghulam Mohammad, Shoib Qureshi, Sir Muhammad Zafarullah Khan, and the late Allama Seyyed Sulaiman Nadvi lead the list. I have been saying my prayers in the wake of Sulaiman Nadvi. My grandfather and his father

served in the Army. My uncle Mahmud Khan was an official in the revenue department. Another uncle, Muhammad Amar Khan, was a magistrate and also served as a "divan" [high civil office]. My cousin, Himayat Ali Khan, was chief engineer. My father, the late Abdul Ghaful Khan, served as a headmaster in a high school and then as superintendent. He had a bachelor of arts degree from Nagpur University and he was very good in mathamatics and the English language. He served at Dubbulpore, Nagpur, (Bhasawal), and Akola. He preferred being a headmaster to being a superintendent so that he could be near the family and supervise our education.

Everybody in Bhopal was aware of his attachment to his family and everybody respected him. My father and mother had always helped the poor and had helped in their education. My father was a descendent of the famous Hakim Ajmal Khan and my maternal grandfather had been the commander of the Bhopal state force. My elder brother is a senior vikvsident in the state bank at Karachi.

I received my education up to matriculation in Bhopal. Even today, I become nostalgic when I recall the streets of Bhopal and the friends and companions I had there. Just consider Bhopal as a second Switzerland if you will. Hockey was very popular there. I was a good hockey player. I was also fond of fishing but I was quite crazy over kite flying and was also punished for that craze. However, I never quit kite flying. Rules regarding kite-fighting are different in Pakistan than Bhopal. There we would pull the line. Here in pakistan the line is given slack to produce the same action. Here I believe the people would start a fight if the line is pulled. It was probably for this reason that I never touched kite flying after I came here.

In Europe, I played volleyball and played it well. In 1952, I arrived in Pakistan through Khokhropar walking on hot sand with a tin trunk on my head across the border from India. In Pakistan, I received my bachelor's degree and then went to Europe, about which you are well aware.

Question: There is one question that is in the mind of every Pakistani: Can Pakistan make an atomic bomb?

Abdul Qadir Khan: You have me cornered. I do not know whether to say yes or no. Either way, I get caught. First of all, I must say that our atomic program is peaceful. The president of Pakistan and the Pakistani Government have repeatedly offered assurances about this. We are doing all this for power production. The enriched uranium fuel at the Kahuta plant is for reactors which will be built to produce electricity. However, there is one point I would like to make clear. The whole world knows that the technique for making enriched uranium is a very difficult process. The first pilot plant for this purpose was set up in (Almelo).

Knowing the advantages of this modus operandi, Japan spent a large sum and is involved in building a plant. The United States has also started work on a $10 billion plant which will be completed in 8-10 years. This modus operandi — lasers etc — has made no noticeable progress and there is not a single pilot plant or laboratory in the whole world.

A book and article published in 1983 confirm the fact. The question is now one of our abilities. We have made major strides in this difficult field and we have a team of patriotic scientists and extremely brilliant engineers and local experts in the fields of metallurgy, electronics, mechanical engineering, etc, which is not found elsewhere. In brief, Pakistan has a proficient and patriotic team capable of performing the most difficult tasks. Forty years ago no one was familiar with the secrets of the atom bomb and education was not so widespread, but American scientists did the job. Today, 40 years later, we have ended their monopoly in this most difficult field of the enrichment of uranium in only 10 years. This job is undoubtedly not beyond our reach. India achieved this 10 years ago, although other countries definitely assisted it. We have the capacity to complete such a task. This is a political decision in which my colleagues and I have no concern except for the sake of the country's safety and security. Our honorable president had to make such a momentous decision and we were entrusted with this duty. We, my friends and I,will stake our lives but we will not disappoint the country and the nation, by the grace of God. In short, I wish to say that if India could accomplish such a feat 10 years ago, we are not so abnormal or mentally retarded that we cannot do this, and God willing, we will do it better as we have proved in the field of uranium enrichment.

Question: By completing such an important project in such a short period, you and your associates have opened everyone's eyes, showing us that if we do something sincerely and honestly then we will definitely be successful. Do you have any other projects in mind which you and your team can complete in an appropriate manner and play a significant role in the country's progress?

Abdul Qadir Khan: President General Ziaul Haq, Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and their friends are fully aware of our capabilities and shortcomings. My friends and I have placed ourselves at their disposal and if we are entrusted with any task, we will not betray their confidence and we will not disappoint the country and the nation.

Question: What message do you have for the younger engineers and scientists of the country?

Abdul Qadir Khan: Honesty of motives, industriousness,and willingness to bear hardship for the service of Pakistan,which have been bestowed on us by God. Whenever you are entrusted with a job, read all the relevant literature and use the beneficial things in your practical work and cultivate the habit of reading in the evening. If they are certain that the leaders in their locality are really dishonest and are intentionally engaged in selfishness instead of the larger and higher interests of the nation, then they should not hesitate to voice their opinions.

Question: Are you fond of poetry?

Abdul Qadir Khan: It is only confined to reading and listening to lyrics. I listen to cassettes of Munni Begum and Malika Pukhraj and Master Ayaz Qawwal [Pakistani singers] and feel at peace. "For 100 years the profession of my ancestors has been

military, poetry has never been my form of livelihood." [Urdu verse]

Of course, I am very fond of cooking and I used to cook Pakistani food every day in Europe and my wife and children loved it. The children insist even now that I should make parathas [flat bread fried in butter] as they are better than the ones the cooks make. I am particularly adept in making pilaf, kebabs, qormah [spicy meat stew], curry, and vegetables. Since I returned, I have not had any time and I could not fulfill my children's requests.

Question: The Western countries have always threatened that Israel or India will destroy the (Kahorh) plant. After the barbaric assassination of Dr Yahya (al-Mashhad), the government should make some arrangements for your safety as well. Are you satisfied with the government measures?

Abdul Qadir Khan: The analogy with Iraq is not correct. The conditions in both countries are different. As far as the (Kahorh) plant or my safety are concerned, the arrangements made by the honorable president for myself and my colleagues are quite satisfactory. I do am not concerned for myself, it is in God's hands. At such a time, any amount of security arrangements are futile, but nothing will be achieved by eliminating me because we have a large number of intelligent and capable engineers and scientists who can set up another 100 plants like the one at (Kahorh). This technology is ours and we have achieved proficiency in it in this country. All the necessary equipment is produced in the country. It is the result of a venture which is 100 percent Pakistani. Eliminating me or a few other Pakistanis does not eliminate this technology. If in the future the need arises, we will make 10 other plants like the (Kahorh) plant.

You and the Pakistani people can remain confident that the president and the government have considered every aspect of the matter and the necessary steps have been taken. As chief of the Army Staff and with 40 years of military experience, no other person is capable of understanding this as well as the president. This is why we do our work without any fear of danger and in a calm manner.

Question: Your wife is from Holland and her parents and relatives are there. Does she have any problems or experience any discomfort in Pakistan?

Abdul Qadir Khan: You know that Napoleon said that behind every successful man there is a woman. All my success is due to my wife who has given me the maximum cooperation and has encouraged me and has never once complained or argued about my lack of leisure time. My close friends are witnesses to the fact that she is more Pakistani than some Pakistanis. Contrary to some Pakistani women or foreign women married to Pakistanis, who have retained their nationalities and malign Pakistan and are unfaithful to the salt of the land even after partaking of it [reference to Pakistani proverb], my wife considers Pakistan her homeland and has gladly accepted Pakistani citizenship and like a true patriot has never ever found fault with it. Believe me, if my wife's moral support had not been forthcoming, then it would have been difficult, in fact, impossible for me to do my work peacefully and with the necessary concentration.

First Phase of Val-Fajr V Operation Launched
LD160445 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0728 GMT 16 Feb 84

[[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners: please pay attention. According to reports received from Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, center of joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, at 2400 hours the first phase of the Val-Fajr V operation started with the holy code name "Ya Zahra" in the Changuleh sector between Mehran and Dehloran. The combatants of Islam crushed the enemy's initial resistance and are continuing their advance toward predetermined goals.

According to information received, during 11 hours of brave heavy fighting the combatants of Islam were able to disrupt enemy organization, destroy enemy equipment, and pass through enemy front lines. At present, they are continuing their advance. As soon as we receive more accurate information, we will inform you.

Communique No 1
LD160823 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0751 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Communique No 1 of Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Nation of Islam, combative nation of Iran: At 2400 last night, the mighty combatants of Islam, relying on God's endless strength, started the Val-Fajr V operation, codenamed "Ya Zahra," in the Changuleh sector between Mehran and Dehloran and in Maysan and Wasit Governorates of Iraq, attacking the heart of enemy positions with the purpose of reaching predetermined goals.

At present a heavy battle rages in the theater of operations. With God's help and the prayers of the nation of Islam, the brave and combative offsprings of the hezbollah nation are advancing with complete superiority. Further details will be brought to the attention of our Muslim and martyr-nurturing nation in later communiques.

[Signed] Khatim al-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Geographical Location
LD160936 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0913 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Excerpt] Dear listeners: Please pay attention to a report on the geographical location of the Val-Fajr V operational zone:

Military operations in the first phase of Val-Fajr V are taking place on the border areas between the country's western and southern parts. The operational zone is situated south of Mehran and northeast of Kut al-'Amarah [in Iraq], approximately along the Changuleh River. The operational zone includes equal parts of the two Iraqi cities of Kut, northeast of the front, and Al-'Amarah, southwest of the front. The distance to the city of Kut al-'Amarah from the front is 31 km. An asphalt north-to-south border supply highway exists in the operational zone, linking the city of Badrah near Zarbatiyah and opposite Mehran through the city of At-Tib to Al-'Amarah.

Communique No 2
LD161117 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Communique No 2 of Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the campassionate, the merciful. Muslim and martyr-nurturing nation, combative nation of Iran: The combative and pagan-fighting combatants of Islam, following the first phase of the victorious Jersusalem liberation operation in the Darbandi-Khan sector in Iraq, simultaneous with the anniversary of the death of Her Excellency Fatima Zahra, peace be upon her, the great lady of Islam, began at midnight the first phase of Operation Val-Fajr V, codenamed "Ya Zahra," in the Changuleh sector between Mehran and Dehloran and the two Iraqi cities of Al-'Amarah and Kut.

The mighty combatants of Islam passed through enemy obstacles and crushed enemy defenses. During a severe clash with the Zionist enemy, they captured the (Pizuli) and (Azadkhankoshteh) heights and the Changuleh pass, liberated dozens of kilometers of our Islamic homeland which had been in enemy hands since the beginning of the imposed war, and advanced inside Iraq. At present, our forces are overlooking the Badra-Tib road, which is one of the enemy's important supply roads. During this phase of the operation, the 4th Brigade of the [Iraqi] border guards was destroyed by the mighty forces of Islam and hundreds of enemy forces were killed or injured. Many of them were also captured by the forces of Islam. Several commanders of the defeated enemy are among the dead. Also, considerable quantities of equipment belonging to the Zionist enemy were destroyed and large quantities were captured intact by the forces of Islam.

The battle of the proud victors and slogan-shouting forces of Islam continues, and the forces of Islam have superiority. Relying on God's endless strength, our forces are advancing. On this holy day, the Muslim nation of Iran will pray to God for the final victory of the combatants of Islam, during the Komeyl prayers.

47th Battalion Destroyed
LD161202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1138 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Dear listeners: Please pay attention to a report which we have just received:

According to the latest dispatch by IRNA correspondents from the forward lines of the battlefront in the Val-Fajr V operational zone, thanks to accurate artillery fire by Islam's combatants, the headquarters of the 47th Artillery Battalion of Iraq has been completely destroyed and its servicemen have been either killed or have fled from the scene.

Another dispatch by our correspondents says: Following this destruction, the enemy forces' weapons, equipment, and a number of secret documents have been captured.

Over 1,200 Killed, Wounded

LD161405 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1355 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners: Please pay attention to a report just received from the Val-Fajr V operational zone:

According to reports, more than 1,200 Zionist enemy forces have been killed or wounded in the Val-Fajr V operational zone. The fighters of Islam continue their incessant war with full strength. Hoping for the victory of Islam and the liberation of Jerusalem.

Iraqi Plane Shot Down in Southern Region

LD161146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1136 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners: Please pay attention to a report we just received from the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

At 0935, an aggressor Iraqi plane was shot down in the southern region by fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] Joint Staff Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Basra Hotel Hit by Long-range Artillery

LD161001 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb 15 IRNA — The Sheraton hotel in Basra was heavily damaged by the long-range artillery fire of the Iranian forces on the city today.

An unidentified number of travellers in the hotel as well as Iraqi soldiers near the premises were killed or wounded by the shelling.

The Sheraton hotel of Basra, one of the American chain hotels throughout the world, is an ultra-deluxe hotel in the city catering to a special foreign clientele. The hotel was officially opened last year, and provided lodging to foreign employees in the city.

Fighters Bomb Installations in Two Iraqi Towns

LD151525 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1508 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention to a report I have just received. According to an IRNA report, four fighter planes of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force this afternoon bombed military installations, garrisons, and urban installations in the Iraqi towns of Al-'Amarah, northwest of Shush, and Kut al-'Amarah, southwest of Dehloran, with complete success. Despite all enemy defensive capabilities concentrated in that area, all the planes safely returned to their bases.

The attacks of our fighter planes were carried out at 1455 and 1503 and inflicted great damage upon military garrisons of those two towns and some urban installations in Al-'Amarah and Kut al-'Amarah. These two attacks were carried out only a few hours after the very successful bombing of the town of Ba'qubah on the outskirts of Baghdad.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,637

LD152146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,637 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. While begging to extend condolences on the occasion of the anniversary of the death of Holy Fatimah az-Zahra — may God's peace be upon her — we would like to inform Iran's fighting Muslim nation that, following the victorious attacks launched by our heroic pilots and the champion fighters of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the city of Ba'qubah in Iraq and the breaking of the air defense network of Baghdad's airspace and flying at will in the airspace directly over the head of Saddam, the fast-flying fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran at 1455 and 1503 today, once again in the course of operations beyond our country's borders, subjected to an air attack the two cities of Al-'Amarah and Al-Kut, where the aggressive bases of the Iraqi Ba'thist Army are situated.

Successfully carrying out their missions and breaking the air defense network of the bases, our heroic pilots destroyed all preselected targets and, despite ... fact that the mission was thought to entail a probable loss of 60 percent, thanks to divine favor and the skill and heroism of our champion pilots all our fighter aircraft returned safely to their bases.

The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran once again note that they do not consider such operations as conforming with the concept of a real war, but rather they have resorted to an example of similar action after bearing 3 and 1/2 years of barbarous air attacks by the Iraqi Armed Forces on our cities and towns and our defenseless women and men in our populated areas. Islam's heroic Armed Forces are always capable of sub

jecting to air attack every part of the enslaved country of Iraq and in retaliation against the attacks and decision dictated by Saddam's masters they will respond with all their might.

During the past 24 hours, operations continued by our land units on all the battlefronts while Islam's combatants enjoyed complete superiority and on every front effective casualties and losses were inflicted on the Iraqi mercenary forces.

During the past 24 hours, our artillery units opened fire on the cities of Basra, Mandali, and Khanaqin.

Yesterday and today, the city of Abadan also became the target of fire from long-range enemy weapons whereupon a number of houses and stores sustained damage and parts of the city were set ablaze.

Iraqi Attacks on Abadan, Khorramshahr Continue

LD151718 Tehran Domesti Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] In a continuation of attacks by the Zionist regime of Iraq on the residential areas in our cities, today the city of Abadan came under artillery fire from Saddam's Armed Forces. According to the report received, following today's attacks on Abadan, 10 of our compatriots in that city were martyred and several others were wounded. A number of houses and stores were either demolished or damaged.

This report says that the city of Khorramshahr came under the fire of the Saddamists last night and today.

The total number of martyrs in the two cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr so far is 25, while 155 others were wounded. The Central News Unit reports that, following the constant and heavy shelling of the resistant cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr during the past few days, 139 of our compatriots were either martyred or wounded and hundreds of houses and stores were destroyed in Abadan.

15, 16 February Iraqi Airspace Violations Noted

Over Khorramabad

LD160533 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] As a continuation of the acts of aggression perpetrated by the mercenary Saddamist forces on the population centers of the cities in our Islamic homeland, at 1421 today two aggressor Iraqi MIG's violated the airspace of the city of Khorramabad with the intention of bombing the population there, but were forced to flee before carrying out any bestial act thanks to the timely fire of Islam's ever-vigilant combatants.

Over Mehran

LD161039 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1024 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners: Please pay attention. According to reports, aircraft of the Zionist enemy violated the airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran this morning for the purpose of bombing Mehran and its suburbs. However,they met with defensive fire from Islam's combatants and fled the scene.

According to the same report, the bombing of Abadan, Gilan-e Gharb, and Mehran yesterday and today [as heard] demonstrate that the Zionist enemy's false propaganda about refraining from destroying our country's population centers is aimed at deceiving public opinion and is baseless.

Communique No 3 on Jerusalem Operations

LD151744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Communique No 3 of VII Jerusalem Corps Headquarters]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Peace and greetings to the combatants waging jihad along the path of God, whose relentless battle in the trenches of epic self-sacrifice has imposed defeat and rout on the abject adversary, thereby causing the song of conquest to reverberate among the summits of glory and victory!

Islam's glorious and mighty combatants, in achieving the targets of the first phase of the Jerusalem liberation operations with the liberation of the important heights in the Darband-i Khan region in Iraq and 12 hamlets in that region and with the liberation of more than 150 square km of enemy soil, have succeeded in dominating the city and the basin of the Darband-i Khan dam. Also, by opening fire on the Sulaymaniyah-Baghdad highway, one of Iraq's important communication routes, they closed the highway's tunnel situated in the Darband-i Khan region and as a result of intense fire, traffic on that highway is already severely disrupted.

Here we call on the populations of the Iraqi cities of Halabjah, Sulaymaniyah, Sayyid Sadiq, Khurmal, and Darband-i Khan and the adjoining hamlets in that region to refrain from using the Sulaymaniyah-Baghdad highway in order to protect their own lives.

The battle and the exchange of fire in the Jerusalem liberation operational zone is already continuing while Islam's forces are maintaining full superiority and Islam's combatants, while opening fire on the enemy's positions, are inflicting casualties and losses on the forces of the Iraqi Zionist regime.

[Signed] VII Jerusalem Corps Headquarters

Guards Minister Speaks at Armaments Factory Opening

LD152007 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Excerpts] According to our correspondent, on the anniversary of the blessed victory of the Islamic Revolution, the first armaments factory of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in which for the first time in Iran 120-mm mortars will be manufactured, was inaugurated this morning by Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council.

In a speech about the reasons for the construction of this factory, the Guards Corps minister said: With the start of the imposed war and the economic blockade, we came to the conclusion that we should fight with our own weapons. To do this, we had no other option but to manufacture the weapons we need. He added: This new mortar factory is the first in our country; it has been completely constructed and planned by our own expert hezbollahi brothers. The Guards Corps minister said: The cost of this factory is only equal to the price of 525 mortars which we used to purchase abroad.

He added: In this factory, in the first year, 2,000, and in the second year 4,000 mortars will be manufacutred. At the moment, some of these mortars are being used on the battlefronts and they are much better than comparable foreign makes. The minister added: In the near future, we will manufacture 60-mm and 81-mm mortars as well as 106-mm guns.

'Huge Group' of Volunteers To Depart for Fronts

LD152047 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1718 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] The X Jerusalem Corps Headquarters has announced: A huge group of volunteer combatants of the mighty forces of the X Jerusalem Corps, comprising battalions of the Hazrat-e 'Abdolazim, Shahr-e Rey, Horr-e Riyahi, Shemiranat, Ja'far Tayyar, Varamin, Hazrat-e 'Abolfazl, Damavand, Piruz Kuh, Salman, and Shahid Beheshti Brrgades and the Habib Ebn-e Mazaher Division from Karaj will be leaving for the battlefronts of good against evil from Baharestan Square, opposite Shahid Motahhari High School, at 1400 tomorrow after an auspicious ceremony, in order to confront Iraqi Ba'thist Zionist regime.

The ever-present-on-the-scene hezbollahi Islamic nation hereby is invited to take part in these ceremonies to send off their blasphemy-eradicating sons.

Azarbayjani Clergymen Sent to War Fronts

GF150907 Tabriz Domestic Service in Azeri 1530 GMT 13 Feb 84

[Text] A group of brother clergymen were sent to the fronts of right against wrong from the Islamic propaganda organizations of East Azarbayjan, following the farewell ceremony held yesterday afternoon by the Tabrizi brothers and sisters.

Defense Minister Briefs President 15 February

LD160616 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Defense Minister Colonel Salimi this afternoon met Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council. At this meeting, he briefed the president on the situation at the Ministry of Defense and its affiliated organisations. Mr Khamene'i gave him the necessary guidance on the issues discussed.

Musavi Chairs 15 February Cabinet Session

LD151603 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] The Cabinet had a session this morning chaired by Prime Minister Musavi. In this session, war reports and the political developments of the region were discussed.

Defense Minister Colonel Salimi submitted a report about the procurement of weapons and equipment needed by the fighters of Islam and the Armed Forces.

Mr Agazadeh, minister of state in charge of executive affairs and supervisor of the economic mobilization headquarters, presented a report providing figures on the population of Tehran and its suburbs.

A Health Ministry proposal on regulations concerning setting up hospitals then was discussed and approved with certain amendments.

In today's Cabinet session, Mr Najafi, minister of culture and higher education, presented a report on technical education in the country and made certain proposals.

Memorandum on Cooperation With Syria Signed

JN141656 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, 14 Feb (SANA) — A memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the scientific, economic, technical, and planning spheres was signed here today between Syria and Iran.

Dr Kamal Sharaf, minister of state for planning, signed the memorandum for the Syrian side; and Dr Taqi Banki, minister of state in charge of plan and budget organizations, signed the memorandum for the Iranian side. The Syrian ambassador in Tehran and the members of both delegations attended.

The memorandum was signed following detailed talks between the Syrian delegation under Dr Sharaf and various Iranian officials to arrange and strengthen Iranian-Syrian relations in various spheres.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Dr Sharaf said that this memorandum includes an agreement on cooperation

between the planning organs and an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation to exchange experts, specialists, and technicians and to train cadres in both countries.

Dr Sharaf added that the memorandum includes an agreement on cooperation in the economic, commercial, scientific, industrial, and technical spheres to establish new forms and means for cooperation.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Dr Banki said the results of the talks the Syrian delegation held in Tehran are represented by the following: First, the decision to exchange experts between the Ministeries of Planning in both countries; second, the agreements on economic cooperation; and third, the cooperation in various technical, economic, and educational spheres.

Dr Banki expressed the hope that the results of these agreements and decisions will appear soon in both countries.

Dr Sharaf and his delegation left Tehran today after a visit of several days. Those who saw the Syrian minister off at Tehran airport included his Iranian counterpart Dr Banki and a number of Iranian officials.

Delegation Departs for Syria 14 February

LD151747 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Commerce Minister Ja'fari this afternoon left for friendly and fraternal Syria at the head of a political and economic delegation. Mohsen Mojtahed-Shabestari, Majlis deputy and chairman of the Majlis commerce committee, a number of deputies and directors of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Industry, and Commerce and of the Central Bank, as well as executive directors and experts from centers for the production and distribution of goods, Iran's state commerce department, and the shipping company of the Islamic Republic of Iran accompanied the commerce minister.

During their stay in Damascus, this delegation will discuss with high-ranking Syrian officials the expansion ofbilateral relations, especially increasing the volume of commercial exchanges and manufactured and industrial goods, and economic cooperation.

'Terrorist Attempt' on Ambassador's Life Condemned

LD152110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Following the terrorist attempt on the life of Mr Mohtashemi, Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to Damascus, the spokesman of our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, condemning this inhuman act, said: This attempt, which follows the disgraceful defeats of the United States in Lebanon and the escape of the interfering forces from Beirut, clearly demonstrates the anger and weakness of the world oppression toward the growth of the Islamic Revolution in the region. Referring to the poisonous propaganda campaign launched by the mass media and the U.S. accusations regarding Iran's support for terrorist activities, he said: Those who are constantly talking about human rights and the fight against terrorism are themselves resorting to futile terrorist actions and intimidations, thinking that they would weaken the forces supporting the Islamic Revolution and the freedom fighters of the world in their struggle against America and Zionism. They ignore the fact that such inhuman acts will never weaken the determination of the Muslim people of Iran and the Muslim struggling forces of the region and will strengthen more than ever their determination in their constant fight against the occupiers of Jerusalem and their supporters.

UN Envoy Comments on Hormuz Closure, War

GF151750 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Washington, Feb. 15, IRNA — The Iranian representative to the United Nations, Sayed Rajaie-Khorassani, said Tuesday that the Islamic Republic of Iran was fully capable of closing the Strait of Hormuz.

Speaking in a press conference at the U.S. headquarters in New York, he further told reporters: If Iraq resorts to an insane measure such as bombarding the Iranian installations and making the Persian Gulf insecure for Iran, Iran will then block the Strait of Hormuz and will make the Persian Gulf absolutely unsafe for others.

Commenting on the recent statement of the U.S. Administration concerning deep concerns of the White House over escalation of the Iraq-Iran war, Rajaie-Khorassani said that this was nothing new. He added that they have always expressed such concerns especially since the Iraqi regime has been on the brink of collapse.

As for the claims of the Iraqi ruler that only concentration centers of the armed forces in Iranian cities would be targetsof Iraqi attacks, the Iranian representative to the U.N. stressed there has been no military base in the cities which have been subjected to Iraqi missiles and bombs.

Rajaie-Khorassani commenting on the retaliatory attacks of the Iranian forces on the Iraqi cities, said that the Iraqi forces for a long time have been pounding the residential areas of the Iranian cities and have been taking advantage of patience of Iran and Iran's adherence to the Islamic principles.

He further continued that in the course of the 40-months of the war, the Iraqi forces have carried out 126 missile attacks on the Iranian civilian areas, martyring more than 4,600, and injuring another 22,000 people. In these brutal attacks thousands of homes and shops have been levelled, he added.

At the same time, the Iraqi ruler has recently intensified his threats against Iran and has lately attacked several Iranian cities including Dezful, Andimeshk, Abadan, Khorramshahr, Behbehan, Masjed Soleyman, Ilam, Islamabad, Gilan-e Gharb and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab. These attacks have taken lives of over a hundred of civilians and have injured hundreds of others.

Contrary to the conduct of the Iraqi forces, in the course of war, who have repeatedly hit the Iranian civilian areas, Iran because

of its strict adherence to Islamic principles has till recently refrained from targetting Iraqi cities.

Even at present that the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced that it would carry out retaliatory acts against the Iraqi cities, it has continued to observe the Islamic principles by warning the Inhabitants of the Iraqi cities to evacuate the cities in order to escape any harm. At the same time the Islamic Republic of Iran has given enough time to the people in the Iraqi cities which were announced as targets of the Iranian forces, to seek safety and has further announced the exact time of the attacks.

Further on this issue, Rajaie-Khorassani added that as part of their warnings, the Iranian forces the night before the attack on the Iraqi cities, fired flares over these cities and has repeated the warning to the Iraqi people in radio messages.

He further told reporters that according to information most of the population have left the cities which Iran had announced as its targets, with the exception of a limited number who were prevented from evacuating by the Iraqi forces. Reports even indicate that there were cases that Iraqi officers were taking bribes from inhabitants of these cities to let them leave the cities.